## **CLAIMS**

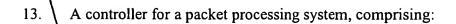
- 1. A controller for a packet processing system, configured to:
- (a) receive signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;
- (b) based on the signal quality information, to select one of the plurality of
  data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.
  - 2. The controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the data streams are associated with a call session from a remote device, and the controller is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.
  - 3. The controller as recited in claim 2, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from remote devices, and the controller is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.
  - 4. The controller as recited in claim 2) wherein the controller is configured to receive the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations in communication with the remote device.
- 15 5. The controller as recited in claim 4, wherein the controller is configured to direct one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device.
  - 6. The controller as recited in claim 5, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.

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- 7. The controller as recited in claim 5, further configured to provide a multicast address to the network device for transmitting a data stream.
- 8. The controller as recited in claim 7, further configured to instruct a base transceiver station to receive the data stream at the multicast address.
- 5 9. The controller as recited in claim 8, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.
  - 10. The controller as recited in claim 1, further configured to establish a multicast address for issuing commands to a plurality of base transceiver stations.
    - 11. A method for processing packets, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;
  - (b) selecting, based on the signal quality information, one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.
- 12. A computer program product for processing packets, comprising a computer usable medium having machine readable code embodied therein for performing the steps of:
  - (a) receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;
  - (b) selecting, based on the signal quality information, one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.

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- (a) means for receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams; and
- (b) means for selecting one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller, based on the signal quality information.
  - 14. The controller as recited in claim 13, wherein the data streams are associated with a call session from a remote device, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.
  - 15. The controller as recited in claim 14, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from remote devices, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.
  - 16. The controller as recited in claim 14, wherein the means for receiving signal quality information comprises means for receiving the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations in communication with the remote device.
  - 17. The controller as recited in claim 16, further comprising means for directing one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device.
- 18. The controller as recited in claim 17, wherein the data stream comprises 20 packets using internet protocol.

- 19. The controller as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for providing a multicast address to the network device for transmitting a data stream.
- 20. The controller as recited in claim 19, further comprising means for instructing a base transceiver station to receive the data stream at the multicast address.
- 5 21. The controller as recited in claim 20, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.
  - 22. The controller as recited in claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a multicast address for issuing commands to a plurality of base transceiver stations.